



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

In Reply Refer To:
4100 (220)P

EMS TRANSMISSION

Instruction Memorandum No. 97-

Expires: 9-30-98

To: AFO's

From: Director

Subject: Information Requested by Congressman James V. Hansen
DD 8/27/97

We have received a request for information concerning the Bureau of Land Management's administration of grazing on the public land and the monitoring methods used in the field offices. Chuck Hunt, Legislative Affairs and George Ramey, Rangelands, met with Todd Hull on the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee Staff to get a clear understanding of what was wanted and to pare the request to only the important useable information that we could reasonably provide.

Following is the information that we have agreed to provide to the Subcommittee. Identified in **UPPER CASE - BOLD** is the Office responsible for providing the information.

1-- Total number of allotments in each state, and the range of sizes (acres)

	Total	No. Small	No. Medium	No. Large
<u>State</u>	<u>Allotments.</u>	<u>(<15,000 ac.)</u>	<u>(15,001-60,000 ac.)</u>	<u>(60,001 + ac.)</u>

GABS REPORT - NARSC PREPARE

2-- Total number of permittees and lessees and authorized grazing use in table and chart format for years 1992 through 1996. (Note Fiscal Year 1997 data will not be available until after October 31, 1997.)

GABS REPORT NARSC PREPARE

3-- Grazing privileges and annual grazing use on allotments for years 1992 through 1996. To be provided in table and in chart formats. (Note Fiscal Year 1997 data will not be available until after October 31, 1997.)

Total Preference

Total

<u>State</u>	<u>Grazing Privileges</u>	<u>Total Active use</u>	<u>Total approved Non-use</u>	<u>Suspended Non-use</u>
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GABS REPORT - NARSC PREPARE

4-- How BLM monitors range conditions on grazing allotments.

A. BLM methods. **WO provided a copy of BLM Manual Handbook 4400, and Technical References on Actual use, Utilization, and Sampling Vegetation Attributes.**

WO will provide the Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation Tech. Ref.

B. Copy of State Monitoring Methodology and Plan. **WO provided a copy of the Nevada Monitoring Plan (Blue Pamphlet).**

STATE DIRECTORS will provide their State's monitoring methodology plan(s). State handbook or plan.

5-- Reports, reviews, or peer-reviews relating to the accuracy, consistency, and methodology of the data collection on BLM administered rangelands.

STATE DIRECTORS will provide copies of related materials that may exist.

6-- Listing of allotments for years 1992 through 1997 where grazing privileges have been suspended or increased.

STATE DIRECTORS TO PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED REPORTS for A. and B.

A. Suspension of active grazing privileges (Suspended non-use AUMs)			
<u>State</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Reason for reduced active use</u>
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B. Increase in active grazing privileges (Restored to active use or increased privileges granted)

<u>State</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Reason for restoring active use and amount</u>
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Reasons including:

- Threatened, or Endangered species, including candidate species or species proposed for T. or E. status. (Plant, fish, or other animal).
- Designated sensitive species protection.
- Protection or habitat needs for a plant or animal not listed or designated at present.
- Designated wilderness or wilderness study area, and land area to be designated as a wilderness which is included in any proposed federal legislation under consideration.

- e) Designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
- f) National Monument or National Recreation Area where BLM administers grazing.)
- g) Other reasons - (Range Carrying Capacity, Noxious weeds, Riparian restoration, Wildlife habitat, etc.).

7-- Listing of allotments for years 1992 through 1997 where grazing use has been deferred or suspended for part of the grazing season for the benefit of threatened, endangered or sensitive species.

<u>State</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Reason for suspending active use</u>
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STATE DIRECTORS PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED REPORT.

State Directors are requested to please provide your assigned reports or information documents to Assistant Director 200, Attention George Ramey (WO-220), by Close of Business on August 27, 1997. If you can provide some of the information earlier, please do so.

Questions concerning this request for information should be addressed to George Ramey, WO-220 (202) 452-7747.

cc:BLM Rm.5627 MIB AD-200
BLM Rm.204 LSB OF/RF-220
GRamey:alh: :452-7740: :BLM Rm.204 LSB-220

ISSUE SUMMARY GRAZING USE INFORMATION REQUEST

ISSUE SUMMARY: Grazing Management Information for Congressman James V. Hansen - Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

BACKGROUND: Congressman Hansen has concerns that the BLM monitoring and grazing use adjustment practices, as well as the deferment of grazing use or use reductions required to satisfy the US Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinions for endangered species, are having a very serious impact on the economic survival of the small western rancher. The Congressman has requested information concerning the grazing management program covering a very large and wide range of data. On 8/15/97, Chuck Hunt and George Ramey met with Todd Hull of Hansen's staff to discuss the request and to pare it down to a reasonable level that would provide the essential information while sparing the BLM (and the Congressional Committee) of a monumental task. The information request contained in the Instruction Memorandum achieves that objective.

We were also advised that the Committee may schedule a Congressional Oversight Hearing in September 1997 to address the issue of grazing management and use reductions.

RECOMMENDATION: We are asking the State Directors to provide only the information that we have identified as appropriate and feasible for BLM to provide.

PROBABLE POSITIONS OF CONSTITUENCY:

Livestock operators will probably agree that the information and level of detail is about all that can efficiently be dealt with.

Conservation and Environmental interests will be concerned about the intended use of the information.

Congressional members want the information so they can determine the extent and significance of the grazing reduction problem that has been reported to them by their constituencies.

Contact: George Ramey (WO 220) 452-7742, or
Chuck Hunt (WO 620) 452-5108